



North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation
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Michael F. Easley
 Governor

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William G. Ross Jr.
 Secretary, DENR

STATE PARKS 'BUILDING GREEN'

SUSTAINABILITY IN CONSTRUCTION IS SYSTEM PRIORITY

At the drawing boards and on the construction sites these days, it's often known as "building green."

That's the common term for a new way of thinking about design, construction, maintenance, landscaping and operations in terms of environmental sustainability. It's reexamining every detail and assumption about how things are done.

"You're looking at it in terms of energy-savings on the one hand and in terms of recycling on the other," said Bruce Garner, chief of construction for the state parks and a member of the Sustainability Team of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

"I don't think we can ever do quite enough with it," Garner said.

The state parks system has ample opportunity to put new sustainability ideas into practice. Garner's five-person construction management team currently has more than 40 projects in the design or construction phase, everything from modest



A NEW VISITOR'S CENTER BEING CONSTRUCTED AT JONES LAKE STATE PARK WILL FEATURE A PASSIVE SOLAR HEATING SYSTEM FOR WATER.

maintenance sheds to high-profile visitor's centers. The projects represent nearly \$60 million from the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund.

All the facilities in the system's 33 state parks and recreation areas represent more

than \$336 million in infrastructure.

"It's our responsibility, as a government agency, to build in a cost-efficient manner," said Lewis Ledford, director of the division. "But it's also our responsibility, as traditional stewards of the environment, to set an example in sustainability and to be innovative in our thinking."

Garner noted that while

**THIS EDITION OF
 THE STEWARD
 SPONSORED BY
 FRIENDS OF
 LUMBER RIVER STATE PARK**

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UP CLOSE AND 'PERSONNEL'

Jeffrey Jones was hired as a Park Ranger I at Stone Mountain State Park. He has a bachelor's degree in outdoor recreation from Mount Olive College and more than three years experience as a park ranger and general utility worker.

Adrienne Wallace was promoted to a Park Ranger III at Eno River State Park where she has worked for more than five years as a Park Ranger II and seven months as a seasonal employee. She has a bachelor's degree in parks, recreation and tourism manage-

ment from North Carolina State University.

John Taggart transferred from the Division of Coastal Management to rejoin the division as an Environmental Specialist II with resource management. He has a doctorate in biology/botany from UNC-Chapel Hill and more than 28 years experience in the environmental field.

Scott Robinson was promoted to a Park Ranger II at Elk Knob State Natural Area. He has a bachelor's degree in Parks and Recreation from Western Carolina University and more than six years experience as a park ranger at Lake James State Park.

Brandy Mangum was hired as a Park Ranger II at Falls Lake State Recreation Area. She has a bachelor's degree in psychology from Meredith College and a bachelor's degree in wildlife sciences from North Carolina State University and more than a year of directly related work experience.

Ned Reynolds was promoted to a Maintenance Mechanic III at Lake Waccamaw State Park where he has worked for more than five years as a general utility worker. Prior to employment with DPR he worked four years with the U.S. Navy.

Matthew Haynes transferred from the Division of Environmental Health to work at Hanging Rock State Park as a Park Ranger I. He has a bachelor's degree in zoology and a bachelor's degree in chemistry and more than two years experience as an environmental technician and wildlife volunteer.

From The Director's Desk

I don't want to tempt fate, but maybe it's safe to say that the 2004 hurricane season has passed. For a time, it seemed the most dependable part of our lives was the weekly hurricane.

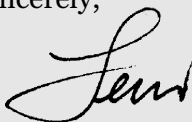
The state parks fared reasonably well during this active season. There was some damage at parks on both ends of the state, most notably at South Mountains State Park where Frances-induced flooding destroyed a series of bridges. And, high winds battered buildings on Mount Mitchell. But importantly, there were no injuries or serious threats to our visitors and staff. Much of the credit for that goes to our staff and hurricane preparedness planning.

The frequency of hurricanes the past few years has honed our planning skills. As we begin hurricane planning in earnest – generally when potential landfall in our state appears in the forecast – the chief ranger or his designee will attend state emergency management briefings. As part of the State Emergency Management Team (SERT), the division coordinates its efforts with the State Highway Patrol, Office of Emergency Management and other response agencies. Within the division, a series of conference calls is launched with the superintendent of state parks, district superintendents, the public information officer, the chief of maintenance, the safety officer and the law enforcement specialist. This ad hoc group will include others as the situation warrants.

The group works to reach a consensus on what steps to take – for instance, what parks to close and when, whether staff is to be evacuated, what equipment or personnel may be repositioned to provide help, when to notify the visitors and the public about potential threats. The conference calls increase in frequency and length until the point that a storm's arrival is imminent and the Incident Command Center at the Yorkshire offices is activated. As soon as a storm passes, meetings and conference calls begin again to assess damage and develop a plan for recovery.

It's a process that depends much on dedication and experience. We're fortunate in the state parks system to have plenty of both.

Sincerely,



Lewis Ledford

UNCW STUDY ON FORT FISHER BEGINS

Researchers at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington (UNCW) have begun their work on a comprehensive study of four-wheel-drive vehicle use and its effects on rare species at Fort Fisher State Recreation Area. The study began on Aug. 15 and will conclude in December.

As part of that process, UNCW and the Division of Parks and Recreation staged a public forum Oct. 11 at the university's Center for Marine Science to discuss the scope of the study and to accept public comments about the division's four-wheel-drive management policy at the park.

Thirty-Seven people registered at the forum, including Sen. Woody White and Rep. Daniel F. McComas as well as officials from the towns of Kure Beach and Carolina Beach.

Opinions on recent four-wheel-drive policy changes – that include a permit system and restrict nighttime driving on the park's beach between April 15 and Sept. 15 — appeared evenly divided among 13 people who offered comments for the record. Comments will also be accepted in writing until Nov. 11.

The NC General Assembly authorized the study in its 2004 session following debate about the access restrictions. The state parks system commissioned the work, to be funded with \$25,000 earmarked for education, conservation and enforcement activities at Fort Fisher.

Results of the study are to be given to the legislature's Environmental Review Commission in February.

The General Assembly directed that the study include analysis of five factors: the impact of vehicle access on sea turtles and nesting birds; the extent of sea turtle and shorebird nesting activity at the park compared with that at nearby coastal areas; the demand for vehicle access; the economic impact of restricting access; and, public comment.

The research team includes faculty in four university departments: Dr. William D. Webster, biological sciences; Dr. Chris Dumas, economics and finance; Dr. Jim Herstine, health and applied human sciences; and Drs. Robert Buerger and Jeffery Hill, environmental studies.

The four researchers explained their plans at the forum, and there were a number of questions about the study methods.

Some people expressed concern that the study period was too brief to offer an accurate reflection of the demand for four-wheel-drive access. Part of the university's research includes surveying visitors as they drive onto the beach.

**LEARN MORE
ABOUT THE PROJECT
AT [WWW.NCSPARKS.NET/
UNCWSTUDY](http://WWW.NCSPARKS.NET/UNCWSTUDY)**

**PUBLIC COMMENT
MAY BE SENT TO:
FORT FISHER SRA STUDY
C/O NC DIV. OF PARKS AND RECREATION
1615 MSC
RALEIGH, NC 27699-1615**

McComas, who is chairman of the Environmental Review Commission, said he expects the research to be objective and inclusive and that the legislature would likely grant the research team more time to do their work if necessary.

In February, the park began restricting four-wheel-drive access along the four miles of shoreline at Fort Fisher that had historically been open to vehicles 24 hours a day. A permit system was also implemented, with visitors paying \$10 a day, or \$40 for an annual permit, to drive on the beach.

The beach is available to foot traffic 24 hours a day.

The policy was based on concerns about visitor safety during periods when rangers are not on hand as well as protection of valuable natural resources. The recreation area and the adjacent Bald Head Island State Natural Area are home to 16 rare species, including nesting shore birds and loggerhead sea turtles. The active nesting season for many of these species is from April to September.

"We look forward to this comprehensive study as a way to help further refine our management policies at Fort Fisher, based on good science and economic analysis," said Lewis Ledford, director of the state parks system. "Our goal is to strike a proper balance between recreation and the protection of a fragile coastal environment."

Dr. Rosemary DePaolo, chancellor of UNCW, said, "The university is pleased that members of the local legislative delegation asked UNCW to apply the intellectual capital of our skilled professors to a significant regional environmental and human issue.

"Such outreach to our region is a hallmark of this institution. We look forward to reporting the study results to the legislators to help them make a decision on how to manage this popular recreation area based on good science and predicted economic impact."

CANOE LEADERS LEARN TO ANTICIPATE

What do bee stings and diabetes have to do with canoeing the Lumber River? Quite a bit, according to park ranger Neill Lee.

A 10-year state park veteran and lifelong resident of the area, the Lumber River State Park ranger loves leading canoe trips down the river and has developed a great respect for the water.

Lee begins every canoe tour for visitors with what he calls a “health and happiness” question-and-answer session, covering a range of health and safety issues. Does anyone have diabetes or asthma? Anybody allergic to bees? Does everybody here know how to swim? Lee asks because they are entering a river and as group leader, he would rather not be dealt a life-threatening surprise three hours into a trip.

But on today’s trip, it’s the canoeists that are asking the hard questions, taking turns as group leader and profiling the canoe party.

This group is in the middle of a two-day Canoe Program Leader Training course for rangers and other parks personnel. The class was first offered in 1991 and has since certified about 200 employees. It’s available to parks system staff at various times in the summer at Lumber River and other state parks.

Minimum requirements to take the course include completion of the division’s swimming test and current training in CPR and first aid. Park superintendents approve staff participation.

After completing the course, rangers and park staff are certified as canoe guides and carry the knowledge of how to manage a group canoe trip and lead paddlers safely on a trip. Once certified, they must complete 10 hours of canoeing practice each year to renew their Canoe Program Leader certificate.

As one of five certified canoe leader instructors, Lee listens, offers responses and critiques answers. To most people, general health and safety issues may seem obvious and easily addressed. However, in the excitement of a group outing, visitors often forget to mention some important things.

During the group leader training exercise, Lumber River State Park Ranger Andy Buchanan asks the group if everyone can swim. Lee poses the possibility that one of the participants might not be able to swim, but did bring his own lifejacket.

Buchanan diplomatically responds, “Well sir, while we do require all participants to wear a personal flotation device, we do also require that each individual on the trip have the ability to swim.



CLASS PRACTICES STROKES AND LEADERSHIP SKILLS

But I would be glad to take him down the river after he has learned to swim.”

Good answer.

“Establish yourself immediately,” Lee said. “Define yourself as the leader of this trip and the individual in charge. Successful group management depends on it.”

A successful canoe or kayak tour includes attention to water safety, navigation techniques and familiarity with equipment, Lee said. There’s even more to remember. Correct paddle strokes, instruction techniques, rescue methods and water hazard awareness were all topics of the day.

On the first class day, Lee had taught in a classroom with the help of procedure manuals, and he later gave brief outdoor training at Jones Lake State Park.

Today, the students are on a five-hour trip downriver. Lee observed as his students demonstrated a variety of paddle strokes including the forward, draw, sweep and j-stroke.

The class discussed leadership techniques as they paddled and practiced lifesaving skills from land and water. Each student detected and evaluated water hazards. They learned preventative measures such as river scouting and hand signals – tools used to avoid dangerous water situations altogether.

By the end of the course Lee’s class had learned skills that, in combination with experience, will help prepare them for any contingency – on the water or among their canoeists. Lee said, “This particular class is going to produce some very strong canoe leaders. They’re naturals and real contenders for certified instructors.”

In addition to Buchanan, Crowders Mountain State Park Ranger Glen George, Lumber River State Park Ranger Brantley Bowen and general utility worker Jeremy Ammons also took part in the course.

AMEN CORNER

SOME RECENT COMMENTS FROM VISITORS ABOUT THE PROGRAMS AND STAFF AT OUR STATE PARKS.

(To Administrative Offices)

I just wanted to tell you that I really enjoyed my first visit to Kerr Lake (State Recreation Area). Everyone there was so nice and friendly. The lake was very beautiful and I was so amazed at how everything was clean, well organized and maintained.

I will get another chance to visit this Labor Day weekend and I am so excited to be bringing my family and friends with me. I have told everyone many great things about the park and will truly enjoy my stay there. Once again, thank you so much for making my visit there a pleasant experience.

Sincerely,
Ranee Holland

(To: Lumber River State Park)

I just want to share this with you. Recently on a Sunday afternoon, I made my first trip to the Lumber River State Park with my boyfriend. I just wanted you to know that I enjoyed it very much and we plan to go back for a picnic as soon as we can. I was very impressed by how clean the park was. Anybody in our county who hasn't visited the park really should. Also the ranger was very nice to us. I enjoyed talking to him as well.

Sandy Lowery
Lumberton

(To Supt. Mike Seigh at Fort Fisher SRA)

Dear Sir,

Monday Morning, I had the misfortune to step on a fishing hook attached to a line. It was a very stressful situation as my good friend's husband was accompanying me. He is in the middle-to-advanced stages of Alzheimer's Disease, so was unable to help out. Fortunately, one of your park rangers came, Katie Kellon. She, along with another few rangers, came to

(To Supt. Paul Donnelly at Hammocks Beach State Park)

Dear Sir:

I am writing on behalf of the scouts and adult leaders of BSA Troop 992 who enjoyed your park on the weekend of June 20-22. Our group of 21 scouts and adults found your facility to be the perfect place for our young men to see a real beach and enjoy all the wildlife on Bear Island without the condos and hotels you find at many of our beaches. This backpacking trip was a great education for the members of our troop.

I would like to take time to recognize the ferry crew that took us out to the island and brought us back at low tide Sunday morning. They did a fantastic job with loading and unloading our equipment and really helped to introduce our group to the island.

I would also like to thank Bobbie for the excellent class that she presented at our campsite on the birds of the island. She really knows how to communicate with the young men. Her training aids were excellent, and the boys were able to recognize many of the birds that she showed them. This allowed many of our new scouts to complete several rank requirements.

In conclusion, I can honestly say that our weekend on Bear Island was a great experience and we look forward to returning next year. My thanks go out to you and your staff. Your personnel really showed their dedication to protecting this very rich and fragile environment. Please express our sincere thanks to your entire staff for a great weekend.

Cart Crump
Winston-Salem

my rescue. She was understanding and very helpful in my situation, getting me to the island doctor at Federal Point Medical Center. He proved to be very helpful. He does two or three fishhook ordeals per week!

Please extend my gratitude to Katie. She made a tough situation very manageable.

In gratitude,
Mary Lorlson

SUSTAINABILITY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

some ideas for “building green” are cutting-edge – for example, reuse of rainwater and the potential for wind power at the mountains and coast – many others are more mundane. But, the cost savings and potential for preserving resources is impressive.

For instance:

Landscaping plants are chosen, and drainage systems are designed, to minimize the need for fertilizers and pesticides;

Water meters on all large buildings can detect leaks and ensure that septic drain fields are not oversized, so that less land is disturbed;

Vending machines are usually “de-lamped”, and the lights-off approach can save \$100 a year at each location;

And, renovation is often considered instead of new construction as a way to preserve forested areas. When a building must be replaced, every fixture that can be salvaged is set aside for another project or offered to other state agencies.

There are a lot of “for instances” in state parks.



THE HAMMOCKS BEACH STATE PARK BATHHOUSE IS ONE OF THE LARGEST PROJECTS COMPLETED BY THE DIVISION IN 2004.

One item that the public often notices is the lack of new wood in walkways, piers and observation decks. Very often, the parks now use a molded material made of recycled wood and plastic. New picnic tables are made of the wood/plastic mix by the Department of Corrections.

“The big thing is not having to sacrifice our forests,” Garner said.

The parks system has experimented with passive solar systems in recent years in small buildings such as remote

washhouses. This year, the system’s newest visitor’s center at Jones Lake State Park will feature a passive solar heating system for water.

Garner said that designers and general contractors are getting the message that the state is now very serious about sustainability in construction.

“Designers are being charged with the responsibility to provide suggestions that are practical,” he said. “We ask about their experience in building green. It’s become a major point in whether they’re recommended to the State Building Commission.”

The designers and contractors are beginning to show up at government workshops on sustainability initiatives, he said.

“Building green” is a learning process. One success leads to others, and suggests more new ways of working.

“There are other energy-saving ideas out there, but sometimes there are big up-front costs, and our budgets are planned so far in advance that it sometimes prevents us from doing more,” Garner said. “We’re trying to address that now in our budget requests.”



PETTIGREW PIER BACK

THE FISHING AND OBSERVATION PIER AT PETTIGREW STATE PARK IS BACK IN OPERATION AFTER BEING SEVERELY DAMAGED BY HURRICANE ISABEL ONE YEAR AGO. THE PARK WAS CLOSED FOR SEVERAL MONTHS AFTER THE STORM.

North Carolina State Parks

Monthly Attendance Report August, 2004

PARK	AUGUST 2004	TOTAL YTD AUG. 2004	AUGUST 2003	TOTAL YTD AUG. 2003	% CHANGE (2003/2004)	
					AUG.	YTD
Carolina Beach	19,032	169,775	29,127	184,912	-35%	-8%
Cliffs of the Neuse	12,791	94,363	14,727	91,718	-13%	3%
Crowder's Mountain	160,534	377,991	16,587	131,744	868%	187%
Eno River	27,454	205,102	26,978	195,106	2%	5%
Occoneechee Mountain	3,349	26,280	2,870	17,667	17%	49%
Falls Lake	80,061	561,041	87,489	547,765	-8%	2%
Fort Fisher	78,957	575,040	114,880	589,394	-31%	-2%
Fort Macon	128,308	1,014,118	161,456	970,512	-21%	4%
Goose Creek	9,233	98,163	11,319	91,705	-18%	7%
Gorges	18,199	100,432	14,960	64,906	22%	55%
Hammocks Beach	13,074	102,525	18,567	117,618	-30%	-13%
Hanging Rock	33,472	222,662	44,512	254,595	-25%	-13%
Jockey's Ridge	133,101	688,606	160,520	838,159	-17%	-18%
Jones Lake	9,304	74,822	13,178	93,988	-29%	-20%
Jordan Lake	95,172	722,730	109,633	583,363	-13%	24%
Kerr Lake	145,612	1,178,184	204,644	962,812	-29%	22%
Lake James	36,018	294,091	37,065	179,848	-3%	64%
Lake Norman	44,268	329,064	40,299	256,105	10%	28%
Lake Waccamaw	9,874	70,832	8,096	70,000	22%	1%
Lumber River	5,400	44,094	4,435	33,396	22%	32%
Medoc Mountain	5,076	38,600	4,757	32,620	7%	18%
Merchant's Millpond	20,508	133,068	24,406	123,028	-16%	8%
Morrow Mountain	25,480	202,530	29,540	187,818	-14%	8%
Mount Jefferson	10,448	63,021	11,534	67,535	-9%	-7%
Mount Mitchell	73,834	338,547	93,966	398,771	-21%	-15%
New River	20,458	112,405	20,729	111,337	-1%	1%
Pettigrew	7,524	56,775	7,530	71,062	0%	-20%
Pilot Mountain	36,487	251,305	39,942	256,578	-9%	-2%
Raven Rock	8,367	65,800	8,993	73,777	-7%	-11%
Singleary Lake	3,058	26,509	1,795	18,021	70%	47%
South Mountains	10,838	43,316	17,888	126,596	-39%	-66%
Stone Mountain	47,828	301,332	43,568	250,312	10%	20%
Weymouth Woods	3,521	30,187	2,315	19,413	52%	55%
William B. Umstead	41,059	350,539	59,373	286,968	-31%	22%
SYSTEMWIDE TOTAL	1,377,699	8,963,849	1,487,678	8,299,149	-7%	8%

Mission

The mission of the North Carolina Division of Parks & Recreation is:

to protect North Carolina's natural diversity;

to provide and promote outdoor recreation opportunities throughout North Carolina;

and

to exemplify and encourage good stewardship of North Carolina's natural resources

for all citizens and visitors of North Carolina.

SAFETY ZONE

Do your part to be fire smart

- ✓Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors monthly. Never remove their batteries to prevent "nuisance" alarms.
- ✓Develop a family fire escape plan and practice it often.
- ✓Avoid leaving candles or any other open flames unattended, even for a minute.
- ✓Know how to use your portable fire extinguisher. Most will exhaust completely in as little as 8-10 seconds.



The Steward

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